

A visit to the westerly range turned out to be a failure, because one of the roads crossing it at a point where there might be the proper sort of brush for my investigations was blocked and a great area in the region of Hood Mountain, which was one of my objective points accessible by road, had been recently swept clean by fire and there was no brush left to investigate.

As rain came on in the afternoon and my time was limited, I returned to San Francisco, at least satisfied that the winter range of the Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow extends along the Mt. St. Helena Range as far south as it finds suitable cover, which is almost to Carquinez Straits.

It is rather remarkable that there are no records of the Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow from east of the San Francisco Bay region, and none from south of it until Santa Barbara County is reached (Swarth, Revision of the Avian Genus *Passerella*, U. C. Publ. Zool., XXI, p. 166), in spite of a good deal of this country having been covered by well-known collectors in times past.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, March 5, 1924.*

**Turkey Vultures Near Gridley, California, in Mid-Winter.**—On the afternoon of January 13, 1924, I was out in a small boat on the Feather River in Butte County, California, with Mr. Gerald J. Chalmers, who resides on a ranch 3 or 4 miles south of East Gridley. We drew the boat up on a sand bar on the right bank of the river at a point about two miles south of East Gridley and stopped to look for a flock of Wood Ducks, which he had seen in that vicinity a few days before. To the south of us a short distance, four Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) were soaring over the river and not far away to the north three Western Red-tailed Hawks were flying together in circles. In a short while the vultures and hawks joined in one flock and continued for several minutes to circle about over our heads, flying just above the tree tops and about 150 feet away. This estimate of distance is a mere guess because it is very difficult to be at all accurate when looking straight up at a bird. The vultures were at any rate so near us that we could see them turning their heads as they examined the landscape. We could plainly see their white bills and (through field glasses) naked heads. This observation is of interest as showing a northward extension of the reported appearance of Turkey Vultures in mid-winter in the Sacramento Valley.—CLAUDE GIGNOUX, *Berkeley, California, January 28, 1924.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

THE CONDOR is not copyrighted. Anything and everything in it may be copied out and published elsewhere, with no legal bar to so doing whether or not permission has been obtained. A main purpose, we take it, of our magazine is service as a channel of record and dissemination of knowledge about birds. It is *expected* that worthy information appearing in THE CONDOR for the first time will *not* stay there forever, but will shortly be used by writers elsewhere—in monographic accounts and in books. At the same time there is a factor involved in the further published use of original materials that should be heeded—the ethical duty to make acknowledgment of original sources. This is customary and proper *until* such time as the portions of knowledge in question become so widely spread as to be considered *common* knowledge. There is no definite line here; but one's sense of propriety can

probably be relied upon to dictate when specific acknowledgment is or is not in order.

The English work entitled "A Practical Handbook of British Birds," which has been in course of publication by H. F. & G. Witherby (326 High Holborn, London) since March, 1919, is now completed. The whole work runs to over 1,500 pages of text, and gives no less than 350 text figures, besides 30 colored and monochrome plates. This was a co-operative undertaking, each of the several authors being responsible for information in his special field. These authors are: Dr. Ernst Hartert, Annie C. Jackson (Mrs. Meinertzhagen), Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, Mr. C. Oldham, Mr. Norman F. Ticehurst, and Mr. H. F. Witherby, the latter acting also as editor of the whole work. As we stated in a former notice